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COLLECTION
OF
RESOLUTIONS
QUERIES, &c.

R. Massey (C.)

Wrote on Occaſion of the preſent Diſpute in the

CITY of *LIMERICK.*

Now publiſhed together at the Requeſt of the CITIZENS, and by the particular Deſire of many Perſons of Diſtinction in the Kingdom.

And Moſes ſaid unto the People, Fear Ye not, ſtand ſtill, and ſee the Salvation of the Lord, which he will ſhew you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have ſeen to day, ye ſhall ſee them again no more for ever.

The Lord will fight for you, and ye ſhall hold your Peace.

And Iſrael ſaw that great Work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the People feared the Lord and believed the Lord and his Servant Moſes. 14 Ex. 13, 14, 31.

Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat.

——Eripe turpi
Colla Jugo: Liber, Liber ſum, dic age. HOR.

LIMERICK:
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(4 sh.)

TO ALL ASSERTERS OF THE TRUE LIBERTY OF THIS CITY and COUNTRY.

My Friends.

AT my first Appearance in Opposition to the Measures of the present Rulers of this City, I could not conceive they would be so imprudent as to suffer themselves to be exposed in such a manner, as, if they had the least consideration, they might have foreseen to be the unavoidable consequence of their obstinately refusing to comply with the most reasonable Demands in the World.

As this Collection will probably fall into the Hands of some who are not personally acquainted with me; I shall take the Liberty of justifying myself against several Calumnies which have been industriously raised, in order to vilify me in the

Opinion of my Friends and Fellow Citizens. It has been insinuated that I had a private Pique or Grudge to some Members of the Common Council, and that I promoted this Opposition from a malicious and revengeful Temper of Mind. I protest I never had the least Quarrel or Dispute with any one of them; but on the contrary had a particular regard for most of them: Their Actions, I acknowledge, for some time past, gave me disgust; none of which, however, had an immediate reference to my self, but to the Community in general. I shall instance such of them as I had any sort of Concern in; Their setting from me, in a private manner, a long Lease of the little Stable at the end of the Deanry house, which they promised I should have in D'oyer hundred as soon as the old Lease should expire; was no Injury done to me, but to the City in general, as I told them I intended adding six times as much Ground to it, and erecting a Charity blue School House thereon. Their stopping of the School Master's Salary; non payment of the poor Widows; running four Years in Arrear to the Poor of Doctor Hall's Charity; were no particular Injuries done myself, tho' they might very reasonably disgust me, as those poor Creatures always look upon themselves to be under my immediate Protection. Their absolutely refusing me, in a most positive, publick and peremtory manner, to enter into the Limerick and Clare Society; and their not cancelling at my earnest request, certain Proceedings carried on by them, in a most uncharitable, cruel and inhuman manner, against an eminent and industrious Citizen, after they had eat heartily at his Table, and drank plentifully of his Arrack Punch, did undoubtedly chagrin me; but still, these could not be deemed Injuries done to myself. Their sham D'oyer hundred, abruptly broken up at my Appearance in

Court

Court, and haughty Answer sent to my modest Message, were Insults upon the whole Body of the Citizens, as well as upon me.

These are the only Instances I can recollect, of any particular Dealings or Conversation between those Gentlemen and Me; and I must be of a very malicious and revengeful Temper indeed, to attempt the Ruin of any one of them, upon any of the above mentioned Accounts. The Case was so far otherwise, that I was ready to overlook all that had passed, upon their redressing all our Grievances and future Amendment.

It has been further said, That I offered to lend them £. 2000 at six per Cent and was piqued because they did not take it, when they had agreed with another at five and an half. This was assigned as the reason of my Opposition to the raising of the 2000 l. they wanted to borrow. I pay myself per five Cent. for some Thousands of Pounds, and I appeal to my Creditors if I do not generally pay most of them every half Year's Interest within less than a Week; or if I ever leave any of them unpaid more than two Months after it becomes due. Is it reasonable then to imagine, I would borrow 2000 l. at five per Cent. to lend to them at six, when I know there are now near four Years and an half's Interest, due to the Poor of Doctor Hall's Charity?

It is further urged against me, that I have a sinister private View, a dark Scheme in contemplation, and when that shall be accomplished, I will certainly leave the Citizens in the Lurch, to the Fury of their enraged Tyrants; as a great General formerly, and a certain Gentleman lately did. I appeal to all the Gentlemen of Fortune and Consequence of Our Common Council in this Kingdom, whether I did not apply to some of them

them perſonally, and by Letters to others, or their neareſt Relations, and freely impart my Sentiments to them all, a conſiderable Time before the late Election. It muſt ſurely be a very odd ſiniſter, private View, a very romantick dark Scheme, that is to be accompliſhed, by endeavouring to unite for ever, the Heads of every Party in the City, and to put the Affairs of the City in ſuch a Situation, as that there never could hereafter be any Parties or Diviſions in it; except that each would vie with the other, who ſhould moſt promote the Intereſt and Proſperity of the whole Community. I never had, or ever will have an Ambition to be of the Common Council; I am humbly content to be a plain Citizen; and would much rather chuſe to be at the Head of the Citizens, to guard their Rights and Priviledges, than be at the fag end of the Common Council to tyranize over, and oppreſs them. I cannot be their Repreſentative in Parliament. My only Son is not yet eleven Years old; I propoſe giving him as good an Education as my Fortune can afford; and verily, the laſt Thing I ſhould think of, would be the making him a *Corporation Gentleman*. I every Day ſee too many fatal Inſtances of that unhappy Contagion; enough to give me a thorough Surfeit of ſuch an Education for my Son. I preſume it will be deemed equally abſurd, that I ſhould be branded with the Imputation of being a Favourer of Popery, as that I ſhould not be allowed to be one of you (my Friends) out of pure Principle: When you are truly informed, that one of my Anceſtors loſt his Life in the Cauſe of Liberty; that two more of them were doomed to Deſtruction in the cruel Parliament of King James; that every one of the Family I am of, has been from our Youth trained

up

up with a peculiar Regard to the immortal Memory of the great King William; and that, in conſequence of ſuch Education, each has, upon all Occaſions, profeſſed the moſt firm Attachments to the Royal Family on the Throne, and preſent happy Eſtabliſhment. I have, in the Service of my Country, and in the Vindication of injured Innocence, more than once, without fear, executed my Office at the hazard of my Life. And ſuch as (having his Majeſty's Commiſſion) ſhould decline doing the ſame, when thereunto commanded, I ſhall always look upon to be the baſeſt of Cowards; next to thoſe who would claim the Privilege of ſaying or doing any Thing unbecoming Gentlemen, and of ſheltering themſelves, from a juſt Reſentment, under the Protection of their Gowns.

When the Religion and Property of a large and wealthy Community, every Thing that can be dear or valuable to it, are at Stake, and in the moſt imminent Danger; is it unbecoming a Gentleman, a Clergyman, to open the Eyes of his Fellow Citizens, and join them in laying their manifold Grievances at the Feet of the moſt auguſt Aſſembly now in the Kingdom; which alone can give them ſpeedy and effectual Relief? Can this be done without hinting at Truths, notorious Facts; ſuch as if they had been mentioned in the ſame Language wherein they are every Hour, every Moment repeated by almoſt every one in the City, would offend the Ears of every Man of Courage, Honour, Virtue, Religion or Morality, who ſhould hear them? And were I capable of knowingly uttering out of my Lips, or writing one Word of untruth; of wilfully miſrepreſenting, or even of aggravating one Fact, I ſhould think my Gown to be ſo far from being a Protection to me, that it

ought

ought to be torn off my Back, and I made a publick Example, as the vileſt of Men.

I am, my Dear Friends,
Your faithful humble Servant,
C. M. D'L.

LIMERICK, 22d May, 1749.

WHEREAS I am credibly informed, it is induſtriouſly inſinuated into the Minds of my Fellow Citizens, that I have applied to be admitted a Member of the Council of this City, and have been refuſed that Honour. I do ſolemnly declare, that I never did, or will make ſuch Application; and when I have been preſſed to do it, my conſtant Anſwer has been, That, as I was determined never to be of any Party in the City, I ſhould have it much more in my Power to contribute to the Proſperity thereof, by not being of the Council than by being of it, which might probably induce me to eſpouſe one or the other Party.

As I have the Honour of being a Member of this Corporation, I am no leſs by Inclination than by Oath, bound to promote the general Intereſt and Welfare of the whole Community. With this View I attended laſt Friday to offer my Sentiments at a pretended general Aſſembly, which I heard was intended to be clandeſtinely held on that Day. The Event indeed demonſtrated that I was not miſinformed; for without any other previous Notice to the Citizens, than the tolling of the Tholſel-Bell about three Minutes, the Mayor and a few of of the Council, hurried to the Court-houſe; I, and a conſiderable Number of the Freemen walked not many Spaces after them, and yet, by the Time I reached the middle of the Court-Houſe, they broke up abruptly without any adjournment; and I am perſwaded the formality of opening a Court, and propounding any Matter whatſoever to be debated

bated by the Citizens, could not possibly be gone through before I got into Court,

As I am in Friendship with every Member of the Council, and have expressed a particular Attachment to the Interest of some of the Leaders of it in their personal Concerns, I did expect other kind of Treatment, than to have such an Indignity offered to me, of seeing the Court abruptly broken up, for no other Reason, than that because I appeared in it.

I know not what was transacted therein, but whatever it was, I publickly declared my Dissent to it in Court, for two Reasons; First, because the Citizens had not due Notice to attend; and Secondly, because the common Speaker was not present. A worthy Alderman made Answer, That the Common Speaker was present, for that the Mayor is Common Speaker. If this be admitted, Farewell LIBERTY and PROPERTY. When such Absurdities are advanced, it is high Time for Us to look about.

I do therefore promise to stand by and assist my fellow Citizens, in the Recovery of all their just Rights and Priviledges, against all Persons whatsoever, who shall presume to attempt the Invasion of them; and I shall most readily meet such of the Citizens, as have an Inclination to concert such Measures, as may effectually remedy all *past Grievances*, and prevent all *future Jobbs*.

CHARLES MASSY.

Limerick, 29th of May, 1749.

IN pursuance of an Advertisement inserted in this Paper of the 22d Instant, signifying my Resolution of standing up for the Rights and Priviledges of my Fellow Citizens, to the utmost of my Power; I now take this Opportunity of requesting them to meet me at the House of Mr. Thomas

Thomas Alley in the City of Limerick Vintner, on Friday the second Day of June next, at the Hour of Twelve o'Clock in the Forenoon, there to consider of such Measures as may be most advantageous to the general Welfare of the whole Community.

My fellow Citizens may be assured that no Consideration whatsoever, shall byas me to swerve from their Interests, and I hope no Threats will intimidate them from unanimously joining me in asserting their just Rights.

CHARLES MASSY.

On the 2d of June, upwards of one Hundred of the principal Gentlemen and Merchants, who were free of the City, met the DEAN, and unanimously entered into, and signed the following Resolutions,

WE the Free Citizens of the ancient City of Limerick, being met together, not in D'oyer Hundred or a general Assembly, but in compliance with the request of the Rev. Dean, in order to consider of such Measures as may prove most advantageous to the general Welfare of the whole Community; do unanimously enter into the following Resolutions.

1. Resolved, That whereas all the Liberties of the Cities of Dublin, Cork and Waterford, are granted to us by our Charters; we have a just Right to insist upon the enjoyment of all the Liberties of the Citizens of the said Cities; except where they are restrained by the New Rules.

2. Resolved, That by the new Rules, we have an undoubted Right to debate in D'oyer Hundred, or the generally Assembly, of all Matters and Things, relating to the Affairs of the City, after the same shall have first passed the Common Council of the City; and that no such Matter or Thing can be

be a legal Act of the Corporation, until it has been first approved of in the said general Assembly.

3. Resolved, That no D'oyer Hundred or general Assembly can be legally convened for the transacting of Corporation Business, except on the third Monday after Michaelmas Day, without giving due previous Notice to the Citizens; or in the absence of the Common Speaker, whose Office it is, to propound to be debated by the Citizens, whatsoever matter or thing has first passed the Common Council.

4. Resolved, That Mr. Mayor's assuming to himself to be Common Speaker, is an express Violation of the new Rules; the plain meaning of which is, that neither he, or any Member of the Common Council, can be of the D'oyer Hundred or general Assembly, during the Debates of the Citizens.

5. Resolved, That the making of an act of Council, restraining the Election of a Common Speaker to one of their own Body, was arbitrary and illegal, an Infringement of the Rights of the Citizens, and manifestly calculated for some sinister Purposes, to the prejudice of the Corporation.

6. Resolved, That the Common Speaker has an undoubted Right to be present in Common Council, as it is his Duty to propound to the Citizens every Matter and Thing relating to the Affairs of the City, to be by them debated, after it has first passed the Common Council.

7. Resolved, That the affixing of the Common Seal to any Corporate Act before it has been first propounded to, debated in, and approved of by the general Assembly, is arbitrary and illegal, and an express Violation of the Charters of the City.

8. Resolved, That the last Charter granted to the City by King James the 1st, incorporates Us, by the Name of *Mayor*, *Sherriffs*, and *Citizens*.

6. Resolved, That no Money can be legally borrowed, nor Orders given for Money without the general consent and approbation of the Corporation.

7. Resolved, That Mr. Mayor be requested forthwith to Summon a Common Council, to confirm these our just Rights and Priviledges, to us and to our Successors.

8. Resolved, That if the Common Council shall neglect or refuse to confirm these our just Rights and Privileges, we will, in proportion to our respective Abilities, use all the legal Means in our Powers for the recovery of our said Rights and Privileges.

9. Resolved, That we will upon all Occasions, use our utmost Influence to oppose all Persons whatsoever, who shall apply for any Honours of the City, that will not heartily and zealously concur with us in these our just Demands.

10. Resolved, That the tedious and expensive Prosecution of Citizens by the Common Council, is an act of great Tyranny, and highly prejudicial to the Trade of the City.

11. Resolved, That the great Exactions and iniquitous Practices at the Gates, and in the Market House, are the chief Causes of the Scarcity of Grain in the City.

12. Resolved, That the Encouragement of the Linen Manufacture, would greatly tend to the Welfare and Prosperity of the City; and that the non payment of the Rent of the House hired by the Corporation for the Linen Board Spinning School, is a great discouragement to that valuable Branch of Trade.

13. Resolved, That the non payment of the Salary of the School Master, was the cause of breaking up the Charity Blue School.

14. Resolved, That the suffering of idle Vagrants

and ſturdy Beggars to go about the Streets, is a great Nuſance.

18. Reſolved, That the erecting a Work Houſe and Houſe of Correction in the City, would be of great Advantage to it.

19. Reſolved, That the erecting a Charter School in or near the City, would be a great ſtrengthening of the Proteſtant Intereſt thereof.

20. Reſolved, That the non payment of the Poor of Doctor Hall's Charity, and of the poor Widows of Burgeſſes and Citizens punctually, is Matter of great Scandal and Reproach.

21. Reſolved, That the weekly publiſhing of the Aſſize of Bread in the Munſter Journal, would be of great Service to the Citizens in general.

22. Reſolved, That many worthy Gentlemen have ſerved as Mayors, with great Credit and Reputation, for no greater Salary than Two Hundred Pounds a Year.

23. Reſolved, That no Mayor is legally intitled to any more Salary than the ancient and ſtated One, without the Conſent of the whole Corporation.

24. Reſolved, That the Chamberlain's not calling in the Rent and Arrears due to the Corporation, is a great cauſe of the heavy Debt ſaid to be due from the City.

25. Reſolved, That the remitting or forgiving of Rent or Arrears, where the Tenants are ſolvent, by the Common Council only, is arbitrary and illegal, contrary to the Oath of a Common Council Man, an high Infringement of the juſt Rights of the Citizens, and another great Cauſe of the heavy Debt ſaid to be due from the City.

26. Reſolved, That the abating of Rent to Tenants who have had already very great Bargains, by the Common Council only, is arbitrary and illegal, contrary to the Oath of a Common Council

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Man, an high Infringement of the juſt Rights of the Citizens, and another great Cauſe of the heavy Debt ſaid to be due from the City.

27. Reſolved, That the making of Fee Farm Leaſes, and for 999 Years, at an extream under Value, by the Common Council only, is arbitrary and illegal, contrary to the Oath of a Common Council Man, an high Infringement of the juſt Rights of the Citizens, and another great Cauſe of the heavy Debt ſaid to be due from the City.

28. Reſolved, That ſuch Common Council Men as have accepted ſuch Remittances, Abatements, and Leaſes out of D'oyer Hundred, have acted arbitrarily and illegally, contrary to their Oaths, and have highly infringed the juſt Rights of the Citizens.

29. Reſolved, That there are many ancient and recent Inſtances, of Corporation Lands being ſet by Auction in D'oyer hundred, or the general Aſſembly, and the continuance of that laudable Practiſe would be the ſure Means of effectually preventing all future Jobbs.

30. Reſolved, That we are ready and willing to join the Common Council, in raiſing Money to pay all juſt and neceſſary Debts due from the Corporation, upon a fair Ballance of Accounts.

31. Reſolved, That upon the Vacancy of a Common Speaker, we will not Vote for any Perſon, who will not give us the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances, that he will aſſiſt us in the recovery of all our juſt Rights, to the utmoſt of his Power. And,

We do invite all the Citizens and worthy Gentlemen of the Corporation, who are not now preſent, to Subſcribe to theſe Our determined Reſolutions, and to join us heartily and zealouſly in the Support of them. Dated and Signed this ſecond Day of June 1749.

To

To the FREEMEN of the City of LIMERICK.

BRETHREN,

I Laid before ſuch of you as gave me the Pleaſure of your attendance laſt Friday, in the cleareſt Manner I could, what your RIGHTS and PRIVILEDGES are, the Incroachments, the GRIEVANCES you ſuſtain, and the terrible JOBBS which have been lately done, contrary to the OATH and moſt ſacred Ties of the horrid PERPETRATORS of them.

You have generouſly and unanimouſly entered into ſuch Reſolutions, as will (by the bleſſing of God) make you in reality, what you now are only in Name, FREEMEN. I hear it is induſtriouſly inſinuated among you, that I mean to bring upon you a grievous and expenſive Law Suit.

Your Taxes are already ſcarce tolerable; and if your Oppreſſors will drive you to the neceſſity of a Lawſuit, the Subſcription will be voluntary, and nothing expected from any poor induſtrious Tradeſman; but on the contrary, you will ſoon ſee ſuch an ASSOCIATION entered into by Gentlemen of the firſt Figure in City and Country, as will effectually enable me to maintain your juſt Rights; and to relieve you from the Tyranny of any one who ſhould dare attempt to injure you on the account of aſſerting your Birthright. I hear that many of you are in dread of what you call the THOLSEL-OFFICE: Your Town Clerk is a Gentleman of ſuch known good Senſe, Temper and Humanity, that I am perſwaded he never will conſent to oppreſs a FREEMAN; but, if contrary to my expectations, he ſhould be prevailed upon, to offer the leaſt Inſult to any one of you, be it known unto him, That, how great ſoever his Power in the City is at preſent, he is your ſworn Servant, and it will be expected from him to do his Duty, according to his ſolemn Oath.

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THE utmoſt of your Liberty is a bare ſhadow of Power; an Affirmative or Negative only to the Acts of the common Council, in Affairs relating to the City; you can however muzzle, tho' you cannot deſtroy Tyrants. You will ſoon ſee the Effect of that Spirit which I have raiſed in you; many Days, perhaps Hours will not paſs, before you'll find your haughty Oppreſſors cringing to you; but that will be only in order to deſtroy you. Therefore enter into no Engagements of any ſort, hear with Patience what ſhall be offered on all ſides, then Vote cooly and deliberately according to your Conſciences. Then you will ſhew, you are no Parliament of PARIS to regiſter the Edicts of an Arbitrary Monarch; but the genuine Offſpring of Free Britons, whoſe Blood flows in your Veins.

THE CITY and COUNTRY mutually ſubſiſt by one another; their Intereſts are inſeparable: In that View, the Country Gentlemen have formed themſelves into a Society, in order to make this a thriving and flouriſhing City; and, yet it is as certain, as it is ſurprizing, the preſent RULERS of it, have not only abſolutely refuſed entering into that Society, but have given it all the Oppoſition in their Powers.

As I have the Honour of being Secretary and Treaſurer to the LIMERICK and CLARE Society, I do invite all worthy and diſintereſted Citizens and COUNTRY GENTLEMEN, who can afford to take a Bottle of Wine, and have the true Intereſt of City and Country ſincerely at heart, to meet me at the Houſe of Mr. Thomas Alley, at ſeven of the Clock, next Thurſday Evening.

Dated this 5th Day of June, 1749.

CHARLES MASSY.

To

To the CITIZENS of the City of LIMERICK.

Brethren,

IN Obedience to your Commands, I wrote a Letter to the Worſhipful Mr. Mayor, and the reſt of the Members of the Common Council on Thurſday laſt, in the following Words.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE been your Dean nine Years, during which time I did, in no Sort, intermeddle in our Corporation Affairs; and, did I not foreſee certain Deſtruction to our City, if ſome Body had not interpoſed, I would not interfere in your Diſputes during the whole courſe of my Life.

EVER ſince I have had the Honour of being among you, I have, with unwearied Application, endeavoured to promote the Trade and Proſperity of the City; and Peace and Harmony in it: I covet nothing more than the Eſtabliſhment of a due Subordination of Power, and perfect Union among all the Members of the Corporation; without which, it is impoſſible we can be a flouriſhing City.

WE have the ſame Privileges granted to us by our Charters, which were granted to the Citizens of Dublin, Cork, and Waterford. I admit the new Rules have made ſome alteration; but as they have expreſſly deprived the Citizens of having any hand in the Election of Magiſtrates, they have as expreſſly confirmed them, in the Power of propounding and debating upon ſuch Matters, relating to the Affairs of the City, as have firſt paſſed the Common Council: And with great deference to the Judgment of thoſe learned Gentlemen, who are, I hear,

hear of Opinion, that Mr. Mayor is to propound the Matters to be debated in our General Aſſemblies, if the latter Part of the third new Rule has any meaning at all, neither Mr. Mayor, or any of the Common Council, can even be Members of the General Aſſemblies, during the time of our Debates.

THAT Matters have, for ſome time paſt gone wrong in the City, is too evident to be denied: That Irreligion, a Neglect of the Publick Worſhip of God, and great Corruption have got among ſome of You, is as true, as it is a melancholy conſideration. Am I then to be inſulted, to be proſcribed, for doing one of the moſt juſtifiable Actions of my Life; for endeavouring to put a ſtop to that Torrent of Iniquity, which muſt be the neceſſary Conſequence of a continuation of the late Meaſures?

LAST Friday, before I met the Citizens, in Mr. Mayor's abſence, I ſent a Propoſal to the Gentleman who acted as his Deputy, That if the Common Council would conſent to confirm the Citizens in their juſt Rights and Privileges, I would uſe my utmoſt Endeavours to prevail upon the Citizens, in a legal and regular D'oyer hundred, to aſſent to all the Matters and Things which have lately paſſed the Common Council, relating to ſome extraordinary Leaſes and Grants made by them. My Propoſal was rejected, without even enquiring what our Demands were. I then met a great Number of the Citizens, who unanimouſly joined me in ſuch Reſolutions as we thought ſuitable to the Occaſion.

AMONG thoſe Reſolutions, we have reſolved, that Mr. Mayor ſhould be requeſted, to ſummon a common Council, to confirm our juſt Rights and Privileges to us and to our Succeſſors. That if

Mr.

Mr. Mayor, or any Member of the Common Council, shall neglect or refuse to confirm our just Rights and Privileges without further delay, We will, in proportion to our respective Abilities, use all legal Means for the recovery of them; and that We will, upon all Occasions, use our utmost Influence to oppose all Persons whatsoever, who shall apply for any Honours of the City, that will not heartily and zealously concur with us in our just Demands.

I do therefore, in the Name of my Fellow Citizens, earnestly request You Mr. Mayor, and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Common Council, without further delay, to confirm us, and our Successors, in all our just Rights and Privileges, and to redress all our Grievances.

I am with great Respect,
Gentlemen,
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant.
CHARLES MASSY.

Mr. Mayor promised to send me a proper Answer, which he has not as yet condescended to do, or to make any mention of it to me, tho' I had the Honour of being seen by him Yesterday. And, indeed, I expected other Treatment from a Gentleman, who was so early an Asserter of Liberty, as in the Year 1723, to attack our Corporation, and carry his Complaint even into Parliament; where he obtained a Redress of the Grievances then complained of, and surely he cannot be ignorant that they are ten times greater at this Time.

Now, my Fellow Citizens, notwithstanding the profuseness with which your Revenues have been squandered away of late Years; notwithstanding several honest Freemen were turned out

of their Farms, for which they paid a reaſonable Rent, and were willing to pay more; which Farms ſome Jobbers of the Common Council, divided among themſelves at a trifling Rent, directly contrary to their Oaths; Notwithſtanding they took upon themſelves, without conſulting you, to forgive one another large Arrears of Rent, and make large Abatements to one another where they had great Bargains before; I do tell you that there is a much greater Arrear of good Rents due to you, than your preſent Neceſſities require; yet thoſe Gentlemen want your Conſent to borrow two thouſand Pounds to be paid, not to your known and ſworn Servant the Chamberlain, who only is accountable to you, neither are you to know the particular Purpoſes for which it is to be applied, whether for building a Blue School, a Charter School an Houſe of Correction or work Houſe, for enlarging our Quays, cleanſing our Channel, or beautifying ſome convenient Common Part of your own Eſtate, where you may bleach a Shirt without paying a Penny for it, and recreate yourſelves on Holy Days, after your hard Labour. God forbid you ſhould have the leaſt Suſpicion, that theſe your good Guardians, ſhould mean to take Pattern from the righteous Town of Galway.

I hope I ſhall have the Pleaſure of the Company of all worthy Citizens, and Country Gentlemen who will be in Town, that have an abhorrence of all ſmiſter Jobbs, to take a Bottle of Wine at Mr. Alley's next Thurſday Evening. 12th of June 1749. CHARLES MASSY.

To

To the Worſhipful the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Limerick.

Gentlemen,

UNDER the many Grievances which our unhappy City groans, no one cries more loudly for a ſpeedy Redreſs, than the monſtrous Abuſe of the Act for continuing Lights in it. You alone have it in your Power, to remedy that great Evil. You can levy what Sum you pleaſe, not exceeding fifteen Shillings a Lamp; and we are under a Neceſſity of applotting that Sum at our Veſtries. I obſerve, you conſtantly levy as much as poſſibly you can, tho' I am credibly informed, little more than half the Sum would lighten the Streets much better than they have hitherto been light. I flatter myſelf therefore, Gentlemen, with the Hopes, that you will take this Affair ſeriouſly into your Conſideration; and do not lay us under a Neceſſity of loading our poor Fellow Citizens, with Taxes much heavier than they are able to bear.

I beſeech you to conſider, that our Houſe Rent is notoriouſly the greateſt of any City in the Kingdom; and with great Concern I ſay it, our Taxes are ſo too: Theſe are ſuch real Clogs upon our Manufactures, that we can never be a flouriſhing City, till our poor Tradeſmen ſhall be in ſome Meaſure eaſed of them, which is greatly in your Power.

I am,

With great Reſpect, Gentlemen,

Your moſt Obedient

Humble Servant,

19th June, 1749. CHARLES MASSY.

Some ſeaſonable QUERIES, propoſed to the Conſideration of the whole CORPORATION of the City of LIMERICK.

Q. 1. WHETHER every Mayor does not Swear, that he ſhall well and truly ſerve the Citizens; and miniſter equal Juſtice as well to the Poor as to the Rich, to the beſt of his Cunning, Wit, and Power? That he ſhall diligently procure ſuch things to be done, as may Honeſtly and Juſtly be to the Profit and Commodity of the Corporation of the City? That he ſhall well and truly, and diligently, execute the Office of Clerk of the Markets? That he ſhall ſupport, uphold and maintain, the ancient preſcribed Cuſtoms, Rights, Liberties, Juriſdictions, Franchiſes, and all lawful Ordinances of the City and Liberties thereof: And, That, as concerning all other Things appertaining to His ſaid Office, He ſhall therein faithfully and uprightly behave himſelf, for the moſt Quiet, Benefit, Worſhip, Honeſty and Credit of the City, and of the Inhabitants thereof?

Q. 2. Whether every Common-Council-Man does not Swear; That he ſhall well and truly ſerve the Citizens; and as ſuch, ſhall miniſter equal Juſtice to the Poor and Rich, after the beſt of his Cunning, Wit and Power? That he ſhall not utter or diſcloſe any Council, or ſecret Thing or Matter, touching the Fellowſhip or Corporation of the City, whereby any Prejudice, Loſs, Hinderance or Slander, ſhall or may ariſe, grow, or be, to the ſaid Corporation? And that he ſhall, in all Things belonging to the ſaid Corporation, Faithfully, Honeſtly and Indifferently, behave himſelf, for the moſt Benefit, Worſhip and Credit of the City and Inhabitants thereof.

Q. 3. Whether

Q. 3. Whether the Corporation is not, by the laſt Charter, compoſed of Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens? And whether any Matter or Thing can be a Corporate Act, without the conſent of the whole Corporation.

Q. 4. Whether it be conſiſtent with the Oath of a Common-Council-Man, to conſent to the remitting of Arrears of Rent, without any ſort of Conſideration, where the Tenants are ſolvent? To the granting of very long Leaſes, and greatly diminiſhing the Rent, where there had been extraordinary good Bargains before? Or to the letting of Lands out of Leaſe, for a very long Term, at an extreme under value, without any Fine, at a Time when the Corporation is ſaid to be Two Thouſand Pounds in Debt.

Q. 5. Whether it be not a great Aggravation of the Crime, if all thoſe Jobbings have been confined to the Members of the Common-Council only; without ſuffering any one Freeman to ſhare in the Plunder; or giving him an Opportunity of bidding for his own Land?

Q. 6. Whether every honeſt diſintereſted Common-Council-Man, is not bound by his Oath, to diſcloſe to the reſt of the Corporation, any Matter or Thing, which, by a corrupt Majority, ſhould paſs the Common Council to the Prejudice of the Corporation, in order that redreſs might be had, in the General Aſſembly of the Citizens?

Q. 7. Whether a Majority obtained by ſuch Jobbers, and Perſons determined to go all Lengths, right or wrong, with any one particular Perſon's Intereſt, will not, in any Chriſtian Court, be deemed a corrupt Majority?

Q. 8. Whether a Common Council Man can anſwer it to his Conſcience, at a Time he ſays the City is greatly in Debt, to Vote for one who cannot

not ſerve as Mayor for leſs than Seven or Eight hundred Pounds, ; in Oppoſition to a Gentleman of Worth, Fortune and Reputation, who offers to ſerve that Office for two hundred Pounds?

Q. 9. Whether the Office of Mayor, be not a Place of great Importance, high Truſt and Confidence? And whether conſequently, the Perſon who has the Honour of carrying the Rod, ſhould not be a ſincere good Chriſtian, and frequent Attendant on the publick Worſhip of God? A Man of Courage, Temper and Humanity? A Man of ſuch independent Fortune, that his Neceſſities might not tempt him to do a baſe Action, or betray the Rights of his Fellow Citizens?

Q. 10. Whether every Citizen who ſerves the Office of Sheriff faithfully and honeſtly, has not a Right to be admitted into the Common Council?

Q. 11. Whether the refuſing a Gentleman, of one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed Families in the Kingdom, who had condeſcended to ſerve the Office of Sheriff, and ſerved it with great Credit and Reputation, his Seat in the Common Council, for no other Reaſon than that becauſe he ſcorned to attach himſelf to one particular Perſon, was not an Act of extraordinary Power, and an high Infringement of the Rights of a Citizen?

Q. 12. Whether the laying a Perſon, before he is admitted free of the City, or a Member of the Common Council, under any Obligation whatſoever, to ſtand by the Intereſt of any one particular Perſon or Junto, be not Tyrannical, Illegal, and Deſtructive of the Rights of the Citizens?

Q. 13. Whether a Perſon's wiſhing the moſt terrible Imprecations to himſelf, the moment he had been ſworn into the common Council, when he ſhould ceaſe, right or wrong, ſupporting the Intereſts of a perpetual Dictator, was not haſty, raſh

and

and inconſiderate? And whether his declaring it to proceed from an overflow of Gratitude, was any extenuation of his Crime?

Q. 14. Whether it be not very indecent Language in Common Council Men, to call Citizens Traytors, and other opprobrious Names, becauſe they endeavour to throw off the Yoak of *Slavery*, and to be real *Freemen?*

Q. 15. Whether the ſolemnly declaring, that no Biſhops, Governors of the City, or Clergymen, ſhall for the future, be Members of the Common Council, is not a moſt evident Demonſtration, that the Trade of *Jobbing* muſt go on, while the City is worth a Groat?

Q. 16. Whether the Revenues of the City, notwithſtanding the late monſtrous loppings and diſmemberings, do not ſtill exceed fifteen hundred Pounds a Year? And whether that whole annual Income, is not moſtly ſquandered away in Luxury and Preſents to the Mayors and Common Council Men, without doing one publick good Work, or paying any Rent of the Mayoralty Houſe, or Intereſt of Money due theſe four Years paſt, from the Corporation to charitable Uſes?

Q. 17. Whether Doctor *Hall*'s Charity, be not one of the moſt extenſive Charities in this or any other City in the Kingdom? Whether the Mayor and Sheriffs are not Overſeers of ſaid Charity? Whether there was not an Ejectment brought laſt Aſſizes for non payment of four Year's Rent of the Mayoralty Houſe? Whether the Corporation, purely to avoid a Tryal, did not challenge Gentlemen of the firſt Figure of their own Body, as incompetent Jurors, tho' allowed of by Plaintiff? Whether the Dean, who is one of the Overſeers, did not tell the Chamberlain, ſome Time before the Tryal, that if he would engage to pay the Rent in

a ſhort Time, all Proceedings ſhould be ſtopped; and whether he did not make Anſwer, That the Corporation was already a great many hundreds of Pounds in his Debt?

Q. 18. Whether, notwithſtanding the vaſt Arrears of Rent lately forgiven by the Members of the Common Council to one another, there is not more Rent due from them and their Dependents, than all the juſt Debts of the Corporation?

Q. 19. Whether it is not aſtoniſhing, what was intended to be done with the two Thouſand Pounds lately paſt the Common Council, to be borrowed by Mortgage on the City Revenues; and attempted to be crammed down the Throats of the Citizens, without accounting for it?

Q. 20. Whether ſuppoſing the City was really two Thouſand Pounds in Debt, it would not be more prudent to pay Six per Cent Intereſt for it to ſeveral Perſons, in ſmall Sums; than to borrow the whole from one Perſon at five and an half per Cent?

Q. 21. Whether the Citizens did not unanimouſly reſolve to join the Common Council, in raiſing whatſoever Sums ſhould appear to be juſtly due, upon a fair ballance of Accounts?

Q. 22. Whether the very Members of the Common Council, who had ſo lately pillaged the City of ſeveral Thouſands of Pounds, could with the leaſt good Grace or Conſcience, commence a tedious and expenſive Proſecution, and that with the utmoſt virulence, in order to drive an induſtrious Citizen out of the City, who expends annually more than Thirty Thouſand Pounds in it; under colour of his defrauding it of a few Farthings?

Q. 23. Whether Mr. Mayor did not, very lately, reſtore to that ſame Citizen, ſome Shillings which had been, ſix Months ago, extorted from him by one of the Tax-Gatherers? Q. 24.

Q. 24. Whether it was not an Inſtance of implacable Malice to force a Common Council Man to Vote him guilty, who had not been preſent at his Tryal? And whether it was not a horrid Expreſſion for a Common Council Man to ſwear, he would join his Friends in voting him to the Gallows, tho' he ſhould believe him to be innocent?

Q. 25. Whether by the Charters, a Court of Pleas is not granted to the City, to be held before the Mayor and Sheriffs, aſſiſted by the Recorder and Town Clerk, to hear all perſonal Actions and Suits to be held every Monday, and oftener if need be? Whether ſuch Courts are now held once in two Months? Whether thereby there is not only a Delay but alſo a Denyal of Juſtice? Whether a Piepowder Court of Admiralty was ever heard of, except upon a late Occaſion? Whether the Proceedings at a late memorable Pie-powder Court, were not unprecedented, arbitrary and illegal? And whether ſuppoſing they had been legal, it was not the utmoſt extortion to exact £75: 15 s. 10d. Coſts, for the recovery of leſs than £15 Wages, when the Matter was determined in a few Hours, and no Lawyer employed?

Q. 26. Whether the Extortions at the Gates and in the Markets, are not numberleſs; as well as the Complaints of Country Gentlemen to the City Magiſtrates, without any manner of Redreſs?

Q. 27. Whether it is not the higheſt preſumption and arrogance, in any Member of the Common Council, to threaten to give a Trimming to, or chaſtiſe a Citizen for complaining of, or endeavouring to have the manifold Grievances the City labours under redreſſed?

Q. 28. Whether it is not the indiſpenſible Duty of a Clergyman, who is a Truſtee to all the Charities in the City, if they ſhould happen to be

 neglected

neglected or grossly abused; to endeavour having them properly applied? And whether it does not require an uncommon Degree of Temper to bear, without expressing some Resentment, to hear it said, That his Gown is his Protection, for conscientiously doing his Duty to God and Man.

Q. 29. Whether the Original Intention of granting Charters, with great Priviledges and large Endowments, was not in order to promote the Trade and Prosperity of the Societies to which they have been granted? Whether Oaths were not framed for, and adapted to the several Stations wherein the respective Members are placed, to prevent the abuse or misapplication of the Trusts reposed in them? And whether they are not guilty of Perjury who violate such Oaths?

Q. 30. Whether the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council Men of this City, have not taken an Oath to serve the Citizens; maintain their Rights and Liberties; and faithfully and uprightly behave themselves in their respective Offices, for the most Benefit, Worship and Credit of the City, and of the Inhabitants thereof? And whether it be consistent with that Oath, to attempt to deprive the Citizens of their just Rights and Priviledges; to set to one another, for 999 Years, the Corporation Lands at less than an hundredth part Value, without giving any Fine; to run the Corporation immensely in Debt; and to divide the whole annual Income of what is left between themselves?

Q. 31. Whether, by our Charters, ancient Usage, and the new Rules, the Common Council, D'oyer Hundred, or General Assemblies, during their Debates, are not two distinct Bodies? Whether they were not originally instituted for checks on each other? Whether the making an

Act of Council, without the Concurrence of a General Assembly, restraining the Election of a Common Speaker to one of their own Body, was not arbitrary and illegal, and manifestly calculated to deprive the City of their Right of a Negative to the Acts of the Common Council, relating to the Affairs of the City?

Q. 32. Whether, it is not the greatest absurdity to affirm, that a Member of one House shall preside in, or even have any Right to be a Party in the Debates of the other House? And whether the natural order of things does not point out, that the Common Council, which is the Head, should frame the Acts and pass them first; that the Common Speaker should afterwards propound them to be debated by the Citizens, who are the Body; and that when their Debates are over, the Mayor and Common Council should go into Court and receive their Affirmative or Negative from the Mouth of the Common Speaker?

Q. 33. Whether, if this method had been constantly pursued, there could possibly be so many pernicious Acts perpetrated, as lately happened in the City? And whether we might not reasonably expect to see in one of the most thriving and flourishing Cities in the Kingdom?

Q. 34. Whether, if all the City Accounts were annually settled in the general Assemblies; all Gratuities and additional Salaries assented by them; and all Agreements for publick Works made before them; there would not be a constant respect paid to the Citizens? Whether their Welfare would not be the chief Object of every one's Contemplation? And whether consequently, there would not be an End put to all our unnatural Parties, Animosities, and Divisions?

Q. 35. Whether it be not our true Policy to encourage

encourage all Denominations of Men to ſettle among us, who are laborious and induſtrious, dutiful Subjects to his Majeſty, and promoters of the general Good of the Society? And whether it be not the greateſt Cruelty to load and oppreſs them with Taxes; and if any of them ſhould happen to diſoblige a Man in Power, to Dragoon him with three times the quantity of Soldiers than his due Proportion?

Q. 36. Whether it be not a ſcandalous abuſe of Power, to admit Servants and Cottiers, who never were bred to, or followed any Trade, free of the City, purely for their Votes on particular Occaſions; and yet to refuſe the Sons of Freemen; Perſons who have regularly ſerved their Apprenticeſhips in the City; and Proteſtant Strangers, Foreigners and Aliens, who, by the Law of the Land, are juſtly entitled to their Freedom, during the Time of their Reſidence amongſt us?

Q. 37. Whether the Piece of Ground at the North End of the Deanry Houſe and ſide of the Yard, be not very convenient for a Charity Blue-School? Whether the Dean did not declare his Intention to that Purpoſe, provided he could obtain from the City a Renewal of the Leaſe of a little Stable, Part of the Ground, then near expired, for which he and his Predeceſſors paid five Shillings a Year? Whether the Perſons then in Power, did not declare that no Ground whatſoever ſhould be ſet, otherwiſe than in D'oyer Hundred? Whether they did not promiſe that the Dean might be ſure of renewing there? Whether that little Stable was not hedged in, and ſet with many other Places, at a trifle Rent, for 999 Years? And whether the preſent Tenant did not modeſtly tell the Dean, that the Deanry Coach Houſe belonged to him, which was built a great number of

Years

Years ſince by his Predeceſſors, without ever paying any Rent for it that he could hear of?

Q. 38. Whether there is not a very convenient Piece of Ground for a Proteſtant Charter School, cloſe to the City Walls? Whether it might not be handſomely improved and beautified with the Labour of the Children, ſo as to be an Ornament to the City, a convenient Place for the Citizens to recreate themſelves, and bleach their Linen in, eſpecially for the Dwellers on Ball's-Bridge, who have no ſort of back Yards, and ever ſince the clandeſtine Letting of that Ground, have been at great expence for that Purpoſe?

Q. 39. Whether the late Lord Biſhop's charitable Legacy, and ſome other miſapplied Charities in the City, would not be a ſufficient Fund for ſuch a School? And whether ſome of the City Revenues would not have been better applied in that way, than be given in Bribes to influence Elections, for the enſlaving of the Citizens?

Q. 40. Whether the Widow's Alms Houſe is not going to Deſtruction for want of repairing it? Whether there be one Widow living in it? And whether the poor Widows of Burgeſſes and Tradeſmen, are not actually in a ſtarving condition, on account of their Penſions being unpaid?

Q. 41. Whether this is not the beſt ſituated of any City or Town in the Kingdom for Trade, in the midſt of a plentiful Country, ſeventy Miles up a Navigable River which can bear Veſſels of 400 Tons to within half a Mile of the City, and would bear them up to the Quay for a triffling Expence? And whether the Ships do not at this Time ſuffer greatly on Account of the great Quantity of Filth in the Docks?

Q. 42. Whether the Limerick and Clare Society was not inſtituted purely to promote the

Trade

Trade of the City and Country? Whether there was not three times the Quantity of Beef slaughtered in Town last Season, than ever was known before? Whether the Secretary of the Society did not frequently apply to the present Rulers of the City to be Members of it? And whether they did not all in a Body last Assizes, absolutely refuse to accept of it.

Q. 43. Whether it is not the Duty of our Representatives in Parliament, to promote the Trade of the City, and maintain the Citizens in their just Rights and Liberties to the utmost of their Powers? And whether it was not very reasonable that the Citizens should unanimously resolve to oppose all Persons whatsoever, who would hereafter apply for any of the Honours of the City, that should not heartily and zealously join them in the several Resolutions they had entered into, for the good of the City and Country.

Q. 44. Whether the Majority of the Common Council, at the last Election, insisting upon putting the question of Exclusion upon Mr. *Gore* and the other two Gentlemen seperately, was not intended as a particular Affront to Mr. *Gore*? Or if that was not the Case, whether they would not have complied with Mr. *Stepney*'s Motion to have the question put upon the three together?

Q. 45. Whether the Citizens will not soon have an Opportunity of knowing who are their real Friends, and who are not? And whether they will not shew a proper Resentment to such as shall betray their Rights and Privileges, whenever a proper Occasion shall offer.

Q. 46. Whether, at a Time that the Liberties and Immunities of the Citizens are manifestly invaded, the Restoration of their just Rights and Priviledges avowedly refused, and their Estates

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and Properties illegally wrested from them, Lukewarmneſs can be at all juſtified, as a prudential Meaſure? whether it is not abſolutely incumbent upon every one who has the leaſt ſpark of publick Spirit left, to exert his utmoſt Abilities, to ſave himſelf and his Fellow Citizens from utter Ruin and Deſtruction? And whether Men of Fortune, and in Power, who can look on with ſeeming unconcern at ſuch a Time, will not be deemed to be either under ſome unwarrantable Obligations, or in ſome ſort Partakers in the Iniquity.

Q. 47. Whether the threatening to ſet at the Head of this Corporation, one of the greateſt Perſonages in the Kingdom, who is univerſally acknowledged to be endued with every ſocial Virtue, a ſincere and conſtant Friend to this Kingdom in general, and a declared Promoter of the proſperity and welfare of this City in particular, ſhould at all deter the Citizens from proſecuting their juſt Rights before the moſt honourable Privy Council?

Q. 48. Whether theſe are at all like King James's Days, that the Citizens ſhould be ſcared at the threatening to ſurrender their Charters into the Hands of their moſt gracious Sovereign Lord King GEORGE the Second? And whether a more ready Method could poſſibly be deviſed, to have them redeemed from *Slavery*, *Tyranny*, and *Oppreſſion*.

Q. 49. Whether a Juſtice of the Peace for the County, is not bound by his Oath, to admit all Foreigners, Strangers and Aliens Free of the City, who are duly qualified; and who, upon proper Application to the Common Council, have been refuſed their Freedom? whether it be not treating his Majeſty's Commiſſion with great Contempt for a Tollgatherer to ſay, he would wipe his A—e with five hundred ſuch Freedoms? whether

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the forcing of ſixpence Gatage from a Perſon ſo admitted, for an Hogſhead of Shrub, was not Extortion, whereas by the Docket a Groat only was due tho' he had not been free? whether the Mayor or Juſtices of the Peace of the City could legally refuſe the taking that Man's Examination, or the doing of him any ſort of Juſtice? And whether by the fourth new Rule, the Perſons refuſing to admit him free, as well as thoſe obſtructing him, are not liable to be diſfranchiſed by the Privy Council?

Q. 50. Whether *Herman Jacobs* a Proteſtant, and Native of the City of Bremen, who was naturalized in England, and is now a Merchant ſettled in this City, could be legally refuſed his Freedom by the Common Council, after he had preferred his Petition in Writing, ſetting forth his readineſs to perform all the Requiſites, and at the ſame Time tendering Twenty ſhillings for the ſame? Whether upon Complaint of ſaid Herman Jacobs, a Juſtice of the Peace for the County is not obliged to admit him Free? And whether, in conſequence thereof, he will not be Denizen and Freeman, to all Intents and Purpoſes, during the Time of his for the moſt part, and his Family's conſtant Reſidence in the City?

Q. 51. Whether there is not a great Number of reputable Proteſtant Tradeſmen ſettled in the City, who have been refuſed to be admitted free of it? Whether a Gentleman of Figure and Fortune was not told by one of the Junto, if he expected to have the Honour of being Sheriff of the City, he muſt give the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of his Attachments to a certain Perſon? Whether another Gentleman applying to a Friend of one of the Junto to be made Free at Large, was not told that his Requeſt ſhould be complied with, provided he would ſolemnly promiſe to Vote with a certain Perſon on all

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Occasions? And whether it is not a common Cant-Word in the City, that such and such Pursuers have killed the Primmer?

Q. 52. Whether it is not making a Bear Garden of the Common Council Chamber, for a Member of the Common Council to declare, he would turn a Person who was advised he had a right to be admitted a Member, out of the Room by the Shoulders, if he should presume to go there and demand his Poll? And whether in Fact he did not turn out a worthy Gentleman so, who only modestly claimed what he thought was his Birth Right?

Q. 53. Whether Monebraher was not granted by an Earl of Thomond to the City, in consideration of having the Causeway kept in constant Repair? Whether it be kept so? Whether a Lease of 999 Years was not lately made of it at ten times less than the Value; and a great Arrear of Rent forgiven, under pretext of a deficiency of Acres? And whether the whole present Annual Rent could maintain the said Causeway in proper repair?

Q. 54. Whether the annual Duties of Pontage and Murage do not amount to a very large Sum? Whether all heavy Carriages do not at present pass both the Bridges in the most imminent Danger?

Q. 55. Whether the Parchers of any Town in Holland, were guilty of more enormous Extortions, than the Farmers of the City Tolls are daily guilty of? Whether a Gentleman who complained of them to a late Mayor was not answered, that they pay a heavy Rent, and if they were discountenanced, they would never be able to perform their Contracts? And whether that is not an Evidence that the Men in power look upon the City Revenues as their own private Estate; and therefore use all manner of Oppression to enlarge it?

Q. 56. Whether the Mayor, who by his Oath of Office, is Sworn Clerk of the Markets, is not in Conſcience bound to Viſit them frequently, and not to truſt any low indigent Man to that Work, whoſe Exigencies might tempt him to ſend a Piece of Meat to his own Kitchen, rather than to the Goals? Whether the Shebeen or market Meaſure is not, by the Docket, an Ale Quart? Whether that at preſent uſed, is not made in ſuch a Form as to Scoop up three times the Toll; and whether the Mayor does not, or ought not to know this?

Q. 57. Whether the Mayor by his Office has not immediate cognizance of all Abuſes at the Gates, Fairs and Markets? Whether in Caſe of doubt, he has not a right inſtantly to hold a Pie-powder Court, to which Purpoſes ſuch Courts are chiefly incident? Whether delaying Juſtice is not by Magna Charta denying it? Whether it is not denying Juſtice in a Mayor, to tell a Perſon who complains to him of a Farming Exaction, that he muſt ſend to Dublin for the Recorder's Opinion or wait till he comes down? To tell another, that he muſt proceed by way of Information and Indictment at an Aſſizes, and ſo for a trifle be under a neceſſity of commencing a tedious and expenſive Law ſuit? Whether that was not particularly the Caſe of Mr. John Gabbet? And whether he was not diſappointed at laſt by Tricks and Turns of Law.

Q. 58. Whether on the memorable 8th of March 1746, a Leaſe for 999 Years was not granted to one Gentleman for his ſeveral Services, To wit, enſlaving the Citizens of 14 diſtinct Properties, containing upwards of an hundred Tenements beſides large Tracts of Land at twenty Shillings a Year, worth near two hundred times the Rent? Whether to ſecure the ſaid Farm from an Ejectment for non Payment of Rent, on the 9th of September

September 1748, a Fee Farm Leaſe was not granted to the ſame Gentleman of the Premiſſes at the ſame Rent? And whether on the 20th of May 1747, another valuable Leaſe in Reverſion was not granted to the ſame Gentleman for 999 Years, commencing 1751?

Q. 59. Whether on the ſame never to be forgotten 6th of March, another Leaſe for 999 Years was not granted to another Gentleman, without mentioning any Conſideration, of ſome Ground and a great number of Tenements at twenty Shillings a Year, worth near an hundred times the Rent? And whether on the 10th of October 1748, two ſeparate Leaſes were not made for the ſame Term of the ſame Holdings, to the ſame Gentleman, wherein he condeſcended to conſent to an advance of five Shillings a Year?

Q. 60. Whether on the 20th of May 1747, a certain Fee Farm Leaſe was not granted to another Gentleman, in order to enable him to make an exchange for an Eſtate in Fee Simple, to him and his Heirs for ever, at five Shillings a Year, worth above two hundred times the Rent? And whether on the 29th of June following, another Fee Farm Leaſe was not granted to the ſame Gentleman, of a Lot of Ground at five Shillings a Year, which by laying out ſome Money would be very beneficial?

Q. 61. Whether on the ſame Day, an Arrear of ſome hundreds of Pounds Rent was not forgiven to another Gentleman; a great abatement made in his Rent, under colour of a deficiency of Acres, when he had before a very great Bargain; ſeveral Tenements and Parcels of Ground added to his Farm for 999 Years, at ten Pounds and ten Shillings a Year, which was leſs than half the former Rent of only a part of the ſaid Farm; the

whole being worth more than ten times the present Rent? And whether on the 15th of October 1748, two separate Leases were not made for the same Term of the same Holdings, to the same Gentleman, with an abatement of ten Shillings a Year, in consideration of the hard Bargain he had before?

Q. 62. Whether on the 10th of May 1749, the Day of the Galloping Dover Hundred, a Day ever to be had in the Veneration of this City; an Order was not made by the Common Council to borrow 2000 l. by Mortgage on the Salmon Wyer, to discharge Corporation Debts in the Clouds, payable to the Town Clerk? And whether it would not be endless to enumerate all the Leases of less value for 999 Years, granted to Common Council Men, and Sums of Money given, which the Gentlemen claiming them were so affluent, that they forgot to charge for them sooner; and other Sums of Money given for past Services best known to themselves?

Q. 63. Whether the Families of two Hundred industrious Freemen, might not be comfortably accommodated with Houses and Gardens, out of the Lands and Tenements lately let in Fee Farm Leases, and for 999 Years, to Common Council Men only? Whether the said Freemen might not well afford to raise the Rent 400 l. a Year more than the Common Council Men now promise to pay? Whether some of the said Leases did not expire in the Hands of Freemen? And whether an Inch of Ground was renewed to any one Freeman?

Q. 64. Whether the Arrears of Rent lately forgiven to solvent Tenants, were not more than sufficient to discharge the whole four Years Rent and Interest due to Doctor Hall's Charity? Maintain and train support the Charity blue School? And punctually pay all the poor Pensioners? And whether

ther the Sums lately given in Gratuities, for pretended past Services; and for the Wages of Cooks, some of which have been alledged to be forgot in the Charge of Contingencies above twenty Years ago, would not clear all our Goals of unhappy Debtors, and set out a great Number of the Children of poor industrious Citizens, to such Trades and Professions as might hereafter enable them comfortably to earn their Bread, and make them useful Members of the Society?

Q. 65. Whether every Freeman of the City has not as just a Title in, as good a Right to bid for, and to be present at the letting of the Corporation Lands and Tenements, as any Common Council-Man whatsoever? Whether such Lands and Tenements have not for a considerable time past, till within these last three Years, been publickly set by Auction in D'oyer Hundred, and due previous Notice posted of such letting? And whether particularly Counsellor *Macnemara*'s and *Palmer*'s Holdings, were not canted in that Manner, and struck down to them as the fairest and highest Bidders?

Q. 66. Whether, supposing a Tenant of the Corporation apprehends he pays too great a Rent for his Farm, and expects an Abatement, he should not surrender his Lease in D'oyer Hundred? Whether the Common Council only has a Power to accept of such Surrender; to forgive a vast Arrear of Rent, and make him a Lease for 999 Years, with an addition of another valuable Farm for less than half the former Rent; without previously consulting the Citizens? And whether such a new Lease might, with the strictest Justice, be denominated a fraudulent one; more especially, if before its execution, it was well known to every Member of the Common Council, to have been an extraordinary good Bargain at the old Rent?

Q. 67. Whether

Q. 67. Whether on the Day of ſwearing Juſtices of the Peace, the Citizens have any other Buſineſs in Court than to know who their Juſtices for the Year enſuing are, and to ſee them duly ſworn into their Offices? Whether any other Buſineſs is uſually tranſacted in Court that Day? Whether a twentieth part of the Citizens ever attends to ſee that Ceremony performed? Whether, allowing the Common Council might have a Right to paſs ſuch Leaſes in their Houſe firſt, ſuch a Day can poſſibly be deemed a legal one, for propounding them to paſs in the General Aſſembly? Whether it was not the greateſt abſurdity to call that a D'oyer Hundred or General Aſſembly for ſuch Purpoſes, when no previous publick Notice was given of them; no Common Speaker preſent, and not ſix Freemen in Court? And whether, thin as the Court was at firſt, the Parties concerned, conſcious of their unrighteous Deeds, did not wait untill it was almoſt empty, before any mention was made of the ſaid Leaſes?

Q. 68. Whether if an Agent ſhould evidently impoſe upon his Employer, or a Truſtee palpably betray the Truſt repoſed in him, any Act done by ſuch execrable Wretches to the immediate profit of themſelves and their Dependants, and to the apparent prejudice of ſuch as ſhould entruſt them; would not be invalidated in any Court of Equity in the Kingdom, or in any Court of Law, if all due Forms had not been firſt punctually obſerved? Whether accepting of Surrenders, and making new Leaſes, whereby all former Arrears were of courſe remitted, was not in effect picking the Pockets of the honeſt Citizens; who were wholly unacquainted with ſuch turns of Law? And whether Perſons guilty of ſuch horrid Crimes, would not rob on the high

high Road, if they were sure of doing it with Impunity?

Q. 69. Whether, admitting a D'oyer Hundred had been regularly convened, and such Cases had been approved therein, they would not be voidable by the Court of King's Bench, and actually vacated, if it should be proved that they were obtained in the Common Council by Corruption; that a great number of Citizens, who are legally entitled to their Freedoms have been absolutely refused them; that many who have no Title at all to them are frequently admitted free; that any Person whatsoever may be sure of being made free, upon solemn promise of attaching himself to one particular Person; and, that since the commencement of the present Dispute a great many have got Copies of their Freedoms, purely in order to qualify them to vote in such D'oyer Hundred?

Q. 70. Whether the Mayors for some Years past, or any Members of the Common Council, (except one) would dare presume to recommend any Person whatsoever to be made free, tho' never so justly intitled thereto? Whether they do not constantly direct their Friends, and others applying to them for that purpose, to make their application to that Man? Whether his Brother has not positively declared, that no Man shall ever be admitted free, who shall be recommended by some of the most distinguished Persons for Fortune and Integrity in the City? And whether some Persons were not lately refused, who had been promised before, and were justly entitled to their Freedoms, for no other Reason, than that because they were so recommended, and would not vote for the Brothers in D'oyer Hundred?

Q. 71. Whether in Case of a Vacancy in Parliament, this City could possibly send legal Representatives,

sentatives, under the present detestable Administration of it? Whether it is not the peculiar Duty of its Representatives, to have all the Abuses so loudly complained of in City and Country, immediately reformed, and the Citizens restored to their just Rights and Privileges? And whether, in Case they should have the Misfortune of failing in such laudable Attempts here, it is not absolutely incumbent upon them to have Matters properly adjusted in Parliament?

Q. 72. Whether a Gentleman did not lately out of Charity, discharge several Corporation Orders long since given to poor Tradesmen: whether some of those Orders were not given for work done in the Mayoralty House upwards of two Years ago? whether the several Mayors, were not actually paid for such Work, in their respective Contingencies? Whether that Gentleman, did not apply to the Chamberlain, for an Order to drive the Tenants who were in arrear, to the amount of the Sum he had so advanced? whether he did not offer to have them driven at his own Expence? And whether the Chamberlain, upon declining, with a certain great Man, did not refuse any such Order?

Q. 73. Whether the Revenue arising from the Gates, is not the chief of what is now left to the City? Whether that of John's Gate is not worth about 100 l. a Year? Whether a certain Gentleman did not frequently declare he would have a long Lease of it at 100 l. a Year? And whether he did not actually apply to two Members of the Common Council for their Votes for such a Lease?

Q. 74. Whether a most notorious, horrid Blasphemer, an avowed Denyer of all Revealed Religion, a profane Mocker of the public Worship of God

God; is or can be a proper Person to be admitted into any Office whatsoever in this or any other Society of his Majesty's Dominions? And whether, if such a Person had the Power, he would make the least Scruple of granting the whole Corporation Revenues to himself and his Heirs in perpetuity.

Q. 75. Whether when a total Corruption seizes the Heads, and total Infatuation the Members of a Community, it is not base, scandalous and ungenerous in a foul mouthed Fellow, who by some of the same Faction was Spirited up to Spit in General Pearce's Face, publickly in the Street, to charge the Person who endeavours to rouse them from their fatal Lethargy, with breeding Animosities and Contentions in the City? And whether, as a Clergyman and a Citizen, he is not, by all the Ties of Honour and Conscience, as far as in him lies, bound to oppose the Torrent of Vice, Irreligion, and Immorality, which would be the dreadful consequence of putting Power into profane Hands.

Q. 76. Whether when a City is reduced to the lowest Ebb of every Misfortune that can possibly befall it, thro' the Iniquity of the Rulers thereof; it is not highly fit and reasonable, that the Citizens should prostrate themselves at the Feet of the Most Honourable Privy Council, in humble Confidence of that venerable Body's approving of such a Mayor and Sheriffs, as have given the strongest Assurances that they will restore the Constitution of the City to it's primitive Purity and Lustre? And whether the Citizens have not well grounded Hopes of such a Determination, in regard that for the avoiding of such confusion as frequently attends popular Elections the Legislature has, by the New Rules, taken the Election of Magistrates out of the Hands of the Citizens, and vested it in the Mayor and Common Council; subject nevertheless to the

Approbation of their Excellencies and Lordſhips; whereby the Citizens humbly apprehend the Privy Council is conſtituted the Guardian of their Rights and Privileges; and in regard alſo, That the puniſhment of the Breach of the fourth new Rule is ſolely reſerved to the Privy Council; which Rule has been infringed here in an hundred Inſtances; which is one of the many Cauſes of the Grievances the City groans under?

The DEAN of LIMERICK's APOLOGY for interfering in the preſent Diſputes of the City.

I AM fully perſwaded that, by the Laws of God and Man, it is the indiſpenſible Duty of every Individual, to promote, to the utmoſt of his Power, the Intereſt and Welfare of the Society of which he is a Member. In that Perſwaſion, ever ſince I have had the Honour of being Dean of Limerick, I have, on all Occaſions, conſtantly endeavoured to advance the Trade and Proſperity of this City; witneſs the ſhare I bore in forming the Limerick and Clare Society, whereby our Exports are greatly enlarged; my unwearied Application in endeavouring to have the Shannon made navigable, which I have all imaginable Reaſon to hope will be undertaken next Seaſon; and my Readineſs to interpoſe with the Magiſtrates in favour of our induſtrious Merchants (tho' ſometimes without Succeſs) whenever I apprehended they were injured or oppreſſed, which I found to be too often the Caſe: And as our Dealers and Traders have been long branded with the Infamy of being the moſt tricking, ſelfiſh and undermining Set of People in the Kingdom, in conſequence of which, whenever any Foreigners happened to ſettle among us, they never failed

failed driving them away, by treating them with Hardſhips here, and blaſting their Reputations with their Correſpondents abroad. I have laboured to convince them of the falſe Policy of ſuch Practices; and that if they mean to be a thriving People, it is abſolutely incumbent upon them to ſupport each other's Credit, and encourage reputable Merchants to come from all Parts and ſettle among them. And I can now, with equal Confidence and Satisfaction aſſure my Countrymen, they may expect to meet with as honeſt and fair Dealings in our City, (I mean with the Merchants and Tradeſmen) as in any other Part of the Kingdom.

At my firſt coming to this City, I made a firm Reſolution never to engage in the Diſputes of it, becauſe, as I heard, it was always divided into Parties: I judged by my being neuter, if they ſhould happen to riſe into Animoſities, I might thereby be the better enabled to compoſe them. Before I was Dean I had a Freehold, which enabled me to vote for Mr. *Smyth*, which I did very chearfully. At the laſt Election, I was ſo equally attached to both the worthy Candidates, that I declare it was indifferent to me which ſhould ſucceed, and therefore I did not vote; and ſuch as I could influence had it in their Option to vote as they beſt liked.

About the Year 1743, I was in a weekly Club with the then Rulers of the Corporation, and ſome of the principal Gentlemen of the City. The Subject of our Converſation uſually turned, upon the proper Ways and Means of advancing every Branch of Trade in the City, in which all the Members heartily concurred. If at any Time, mention was made of the Corporation Lands, Mr. *Roche* ſolemnly declared, with peculiar Emphaſis, none of them ſhould be ſet until the then Leaſes were expired; or out of D'oyer Hundred, when every Freemen

Freeman ſhould have Liberty to bid for his own Conveniency, as had been for ſome Time before practiſed. Thoſe and many other ſuch publick ſpirited Declarations did, I acknowledge, enamour me ſo, that I was ſo far from envying that Gentleman the height of Power he had arrived unto, that he had my warmeſt wiſhes for a continuation of it. The Rents of Doctor Hall's Charity, were then regularly diſcharged, as they became due. The Charity Blue-Boys went decently to Church in their proper Cloathing, with their Maſter's Salary punctually paid. The poor Widows of Freemen lived then comfortably in their own Habitations, and duly received their Penſions; as did alſo the Widows of poor Burgeſſes. There were then no Complaints of oppreſſive Piepowder Courts, no iniquitous Proſecutions of our Merchants out of private Pique or antient Grudge. No dragooning ſuch as ſhould diſoblige one of the Junto for demanding what was juſtly due to them; or threatning to turn out of the City ſuch as ſhould dare conſult the Means of their own or their Fellow Citizen's Proſperity. No abſolutely refuſing to enter into Societies for promoting the univerſal Good of the whole Community: The Intereſt of the Magiſtracy, of the Citizens, and of the Country, was then one and the ſame Thing. Complaints againſt the Toll and Tax gatherers were no ſooner made than redreſſed, and the Offenders inſtantly puniſhed. A Sum of Money was then readily ordered to be given to a ſkilful Perſon to take the Levels of the Shannon: A Scheme was no ſooner propoſed than agreed to, for erecting a Charity Blue School Houſe on the Deanry Ground, in lieu of that out of which the poor Boys were then threatned to be ejected, as, in fact, they ſoon afterwards were. The Object of every one's Contemplation then, was to find out the propereſt Piece of Ground whereon to

erect

erect a Charter School, an House of Correction and a work House; how to have the Streets cleansed; and to baniſh ſturdy Beggars and Vagrants out of them: In ſhort, there was then no leading into Captivity, no complaining in our Streets.

How the Scene has been changed ſince the fatal Year 1746, the Corporation Books, the Advertiſements lately publiſhed in this Paper, and eſpecially the Queries, no one of which has ever yet been, or can be contradicted, too amply teſtify. I would to God there never had been Occaſion given for ſuch ſevere Remarks.

I declare I never had the leaſt Malice, ill Will or hatred to the Perſon of any one Member of the Common Council; I at firſt applied to them in the moſt gentle, cool and reſpectful manner, for a Redreſs of our Grievances; and I did not make that Application untill our Corporation was within the Jaws of Ruin and Deſtruction. I wrote to moſt of the Gentlemen of the greateſt Figure and Conſequence of it, ſignifying my Apprehenſions; wherein, I had no other View than to induce them unanimouſly to join, in reſtoring Liberty to the Citizens, and making ſuch good Rules, as might for the future effectually prevent any further Alienations of our Revenues. I was then indeed of Opinion, that what had been before tranſacted was irretrievably loſt to the Citizens; but have been ſince well adviſed, that the inſquitous Leaſes and Grants lately made, were fraudulent and illegal, without any Manner of Conſideration; except their being mentioned in the Grant to be given as Bribes to enſlave the Citizens, may be deemed a valuable Conſideration, which I am perſuaded will never paſs for Law in any Court in the Kingdom.

I ſtudiouſly avoided being of any Party, untill I found by the Gentlemen's Anſwers, that I had no great Reaſon to expect much Aſſiſtance from them;

and

and upon Mr. *Stepney*'s ſtrongeſt Aſſurances, that he would zealouſly join me in retrieving our Conſtitution, I moſt heartily wiſhed him Succeſs; which I really do, in a firm Perſwaſion, that if I ſhall have the Mortification of ſeeing him diſappointed, our City, if it ſhall continue to be governed by the ſame Maxims which have prevailed for ſome Time paſt, (will ſoon be like Kilmallock, inhabited with Bats and Owls) under the Government of greedy Wolves, fierce Tygers and cruel Vultures: Or if I ſhall have the good Fortune of ſeeing the ardent Wiſhes of every honeſt, every diſintereſted Citizen crowned with Succeſs, we will, from that Time, date the Æra of our being a thriving, proſperous and happy People.

Limerick, July 10th 1749. C. M. D. L.

AS I have been informed that the Words in my Apology, wherein mention is made of Kilmallock, have been maliciouſly wreſted to a Meaning as if I had an intention to caſt a Reflection on the preſent Rulers of that Corporation; I do declare it was ſo far diſtant from my Thoughts, that I am fully perſwaded they are incapable of doing any one Act, inconſiſtent with the Truſt repoſed in them by their Conſtituents, or with the Rules of ſtrict Juſtice and Honour. And they have the Intereſt and Welfare of that once flouriſhing Town ſo much at Heart, that to my certain Knowledge, a Charter School, Bleach-Yard and Spinning-School have been erected, and are chiefly maintained out of the ſmall Revenues of that Corporation, which are not the twentieth part of what is ſtill left of ours. And had our good Rulers done the tenth Part ſo much Service, in proportion to the different Revenues, I never would have given them or myſelf any Trouble.

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17th July 1749. C. M. D. L.